

BOARD:
Paul C. Aughtry, III
Chairman
Edwin H. Cooper, III
Vice Chairman
Steven G. Kisner
Secretary



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

BOARD:
Henry C. Scott
M. David Mitchell, MD
Glenn A. McCall
Coleman F. Buckhouse, MD

JUN 07 2012

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
safe drinking water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: Purrysburg-Levy Waterline Project
(Beaufort/Jasper Counties)

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve water preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the PER entitled "Preliminary Engineering Report Purrysburg-Levy Waterline Project", dated April 2012. The report recommends installation of new water mains to serve the Levy area of Jasper County. The Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority will implement the project. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for New Facilities: The groundwater supply in the Levy area of Jasper County is diminishing because of pumping which has lead to salt water intrusion into wells. The Levy Bellinger Hill Water District (owned and operated by BJWSA) is mostly 8-inch and 10-inch waterlines and relies completely on groundwater. Because of increased chloride levels and saltwater intrusion, Levy can no longer safely rely on the groundwater supply. To continue compliance with the State Primary Drinking Water Regulations water system improvements are proposed.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figures show the project location. The proposed solution to these needs is to construct new transmission mains from the BJWSA Purrysburg Water Treatment Plant to serve the Levy area of Jasper County. Construction for the proposed projects will include approximately 85,000 linear feet (LF) of 36-inch transmission main. The estimated total capital cost for the project is \$14,000,000.

Environmental Consequences: Minimal environmental impacts will result from the proposed construction. Construction for the transmission and distribution mains will occur on existing utility and road rights-of-way. An endangered and threatened species survey was performed by Sligh Environmental Consultants. The survey found two historic observances of the frosted flatwood salamander near the project corridor in the New River crossing area. Construction will be limited in that area so as to not adversely affect this threatened species. A Cultural Resources Archival Resources report was prepared by Brockington that identified six sites as warranting additional historical considerations. An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standard will be present to monitor excavations of these sites. Although wetlands and floodplain occur in the planning area, the proposed project will be designed to result in minimal impacts to these wetlands and floodplains. (e.g., preconstruction contours will be restored). The water system improvements will be beneficial to public health by providing a water supply that will continue compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

There are no important farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or national natural landmarks, located where they are likely to be impacted by implementation of the proposed project. Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion and sedimentation will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices. Demographic analysis and project information indicate no significant adverse impact on a minority or low-income population.

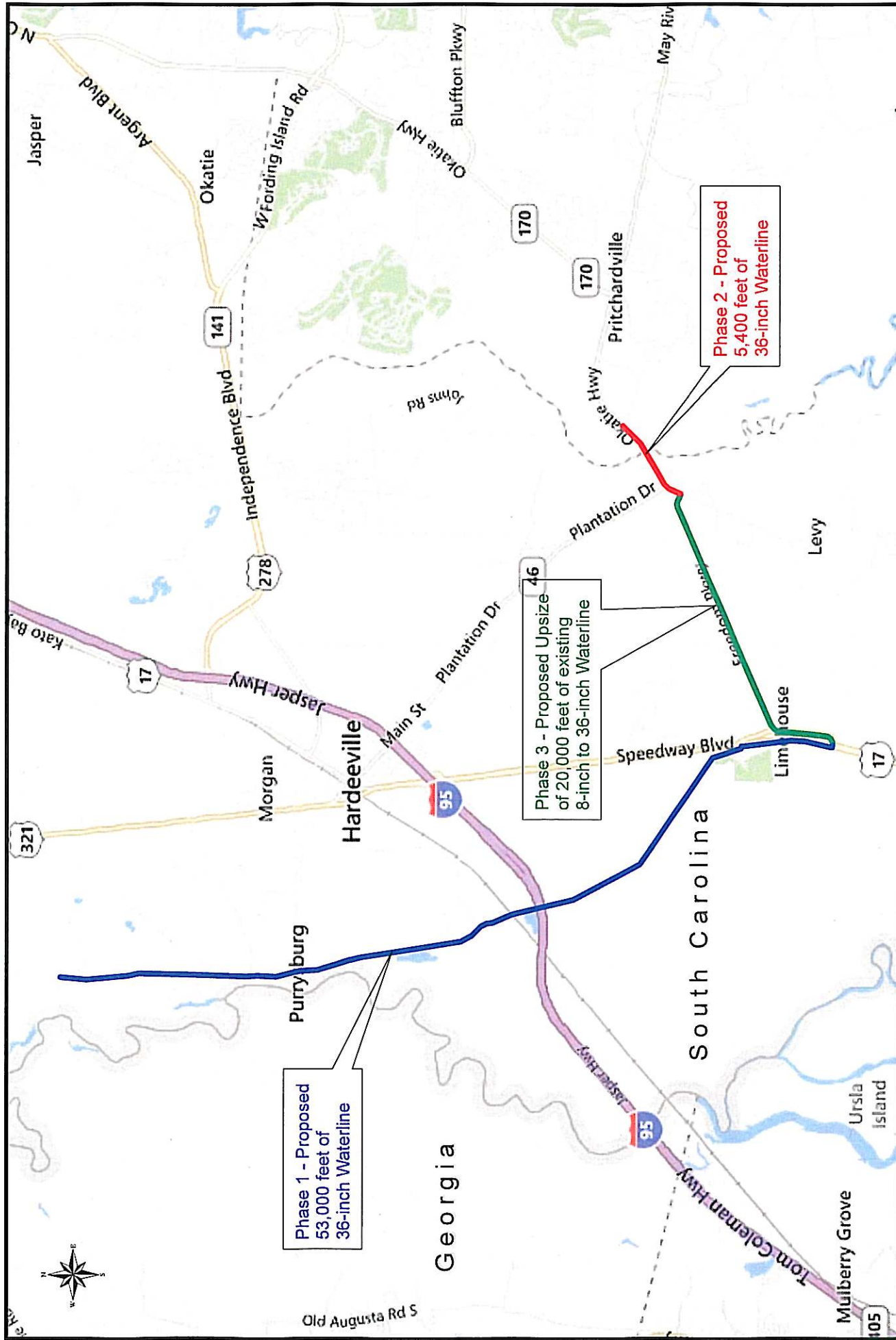
COMMENTS:

Comments in support or disagreement received within 30 days of the date of this FNSI will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, either send an e-mail (debessjp@dhec.sc.gov) or write to:

Jeff deBessonnet, Director
Water Facilities Permitting Division
Bureau of Water
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201



David E. Wilson, Jr., P.E., Chief
Bureau of Water



Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority Purrysburg-Levy Waterline

Phase 1 - Proposed 36-inch Waterline

Phase 2 - Proposed 36-inch Waterline

Phase 3 - Proposed 36-inch Waterline

Location Map

May 2012